



UNITED STATES ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

REGION 6

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JUL 31 2009

Mr. Vladimir Alexander Appeaning, Ph.D.
Deputy Secretary
Louisiana Department of Environmental Quality
P.O. Box 4301
Baton Rouge, Louisiana 70821-4301

Dear Mr. Appeaning:

Enclosed is the FY 09 Resource Conservation and Recovery Act (RCRA) Hazardous Waste Program Midyear Report. The Midyear Review was conducted on April 30, 2009. Overall programmatic progress, accomplishment of Performance Partnership Grant (PPG) workplan commitments, and achievement of Government Performance and Results Act (GPRA) goals were discussed and evaluated by the EPA. The LDEQ prepared a Midyear Progress Report which provided specific information on the status of cooperative agreement commitments and programmatic activities. This report was utilized for the review, and pertinent information was incorporated into this report.

During the Midyear meeting, the EPA and the LDEQ discussed the content of the Oversight Document and progress made as of Midyear. The LDEQ received satisfactory ratings in all areas on the evaluation document, which will be finalized during the End-of-Year discussions.

Overall, the corrective action and permitting programs are running very well in Louisiana, and significant accomplishments have been made to reduce the number of permits awaiting renewal. We look forward to the LDEQ's continued progress in the areas of permitting, closure, and corrective action for the remainder of the fiscal year.

Louisiana is among the leading States in the Nation for rule adoption and authorization. The EPA has resolved regulatory and statutory issues with the State for RCRA Clusters III through XV. The EPA anticipates codifying the State for Clusters III through XV and will publish the information in the Federal Register by September 2009.

The LDEQ showed significant progress in accomplishing corrective action measurements during the reporting period and has already met or exceeded some of their FY 09 grant commitments.

During the first half of the fiscal year, no Ready for Reuse determinations were issued. However, several facilities are scheduled for FY 09 determinations, including Syngenta Crop Protection, Microchem, and Marathon.

Significant improvements have been made to the permitting program during FY 09. The LDEQ has continued to make progress by completing five permit renewals at GPRA facilities and completing three permits at GPRA facilities with previously unpermitted units. In addition, the LDEQ has issued two permits at Non-GPRA facilities with previously unpermitted units. The State targeted seven facilities for permit renewals at combustion facilities, land disposal or storage treatment facilities [GPRA only] and they expect to meet that goal by the end of the fiscal year.

The EPA and the LDEQ continue to hold joint waste minimization workshops and recruit partners for the National Partnership for Environmental Priorities. In addition, the EPA and the LDEQ conduct monthly conference calls to discuss the status of ongoing issues pertinent to the grant and the LDEQ provides training to their staff, as required.

During the first half of FY 09, LDEQ inspected 25% of the 55 TSD's under full enforcement in the State. The total number of inspections conducted during the year is 201, five of which were multi-media inspections. Additional information about these enforcement activities is included in the attached FY 09 Enforcement Midyear Report.

As of Midyear, five significant non-complier's (SNC) were due to be addressed with formal enforcement and one was addressed with a Final Order. The LDEQ issued 29 formal enforcement actions for other violations of RCRA regulations. The 29 enforcement actions were: 30 Final Orders that were issued to secondary violators. For more information, please refer to the FY 09 Enforcement Midyear Report.

We appreciate your continued efforts to meet our mutual program goals during the fiscal year. If you have any questions or concerns, please contact Sarah Perham, RCRA Project Officer, at (214) 665-2752.

Sincerely,



Troy C. Hill, P.E.
RCRA Associate Director
Multimedia Planning and
Permitting Division

Enclosures

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